IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An optical semiconductor device comprising:

an optical semiconductor element; and

a circuit connected to the optical semiconductor element, having a series rectifying circuit including a plurality of zener diodes connected in series, and having a rectifying element whose anode is connected to an anode of the series rectifying circuit,

wherein the zener diodes have parasitic components which generate a current upon irradiation of a light thereto.

Claim 2 (Original): The optical semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the circuit further includes a voltage supply which supplies a higher voltage to a cathode of the series rectifying circuit than to a cathode of the rectifying element.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): The optical semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the rectifying element is a NPN transistor whose emitter and base are short-circuited.

Claim 5 (Original): The optical semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the rectifying element is a PNP transistor whose collector and base are short-circuited.

Claim 6 (Original): The optical semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the rectifying element is a NPN transistor whose collector and base are short-circuited.

Claim 7 (Original): The optical semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the optical semiconductor element is protected from a voltage exceeding a predetermined value by a breakdown of the zener diodes.

Claim 8 (Original): The optical semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein a voltage applied to the optical semiconductor element is adjusted by a breakdown of the zener diodes when a voltage exceeding a predetermined value is applied.

Claim 9 (Original): The optical semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the optical semiconductor element and the circuit are monolithically provided on a same semiconductor substrate.

Claim 10 (Original): The optical semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the optical semiconductor element and the circuit are accommodated in a same package.

Claim 11 (Original): The optical semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the optical semiconductor element is a light emitting element.

Claim 12 (Original): The optical semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the optical semiconductor element is a light receiving element.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An optical semiconductor device comprising:

an optical semiconductor element; and

a circuit connected to the optical semiconductor element, having a series rectifying circuit including a plurality of first rectifying elements connected in series, and having a

second rectifying element whose anode is connected to an anode of the series rectifying circuit,

wherein the first rectifying elements have parasitic components which generate a current upon irradiation of a light thereto.

Claim 14 (Original): The optical semiconductor device according to claim 13, wherein the circuit further includes a voltage supply which supplies a higher voltage to a cathode of the series rectifying circuit than to a cathode of the second rectifying element.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Original): The optical semiconductor device according to claim 13, wherein the optical semiconductor element and the circuit are monolithically provided on a same semiconductor substrate.

Claim 17 (Original): The optical semiconductor device according to claim 13, wherein the optical semiconductor element and the circuit are accommodated in a same package.

Claim 18 (Original): The optical semiconductor device according to claim 13, wherein the optical semiconductor element is a light emitting element.

Claim 19 (Original): The optical semiconductor device according to claim 13, wherein the optical semiconductor element is a light receiving element.

Claim 20 (Original): The optical semiconductor device according to claim 13, wherein the series rectifying circuit limits a voltage to be supplied to the optical semiconductor element to a predetermined value.